

Preliminary Exam
PHIL 33 A - Philosophy of Education

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Thoughts on Paulo Freire's Pedagogy of the Oppressed
"What do you think about it?"

The written work of Freire deals with the observation of people which by 'blindness' and corruption has turn into oppressing themselves and others. He laid proposals, models, and possibilities in facing with this reality. Along with these matters is the creativity in education rather than the 'banking' pattern which only consists with the 'give-and-take' on information without depth. Education in this setting was seen to be both effective and destructive. Effective in the sense of harnessing characters and at the same time destructive because of manipulating the people to only obey even on those which they cannot and do not understand. Thus, Freire put forth the notion of dialog in which every person, despite of their status, are welcomed in expressing their clear and powerful thoughts.

To educate people is not only on telling them what to do without taking a glance in their context. This also deals with showing them empathy and in stepping in their situation, as a form of dialogue. Dialog or communication is not only exchange of speeches. Also, it is in actions that leads to holistic and necessary changes, to open the 'I' with the 'We'. Education and dialog is not limited in only giving orders to the people. These deal with facing questions, from and to, reflection on values in their usefulness and connection with reality.

One is oppressed not merely that (s)he is tortured and battered. Oppression comes in different means. Depriving one's rights to speak, not receiving goods, condemned unjustly, hated for telling the truth, mocked for having noble deeds, to name a few. These happenings fall into the ca-

gories of oppression and injustices. Somehow, there is no need to 'solve' these hastily as can be worsen through time. What a person can do is watchfulness; to exercise one's thinking, in seeing things as part of the process, but not to apply knowing these are harmful and deadly.

In the face of oppression, hope remains, be it small or great. Education and dialog belonged to the working answers. These are to give a wake-up call for everyone that one can free itself from oppression. Freedom varies in forms and that is for people to find out.